

William Hadfield

From his Autobiography

How He Came to Lehi

I was only about five years old when my mother Alice, died on 1 Nov. 1884 of a childbed fever. The baby, Walter was just four hours old when mother died. Grandma, [Elizabeth Woodall Hadfield] took care of Walter. Mother left a family of five children, the oldest a girl Mary Elizabeth 10 years old, Samuel Ephraim, William, James Able, and Walter.

Living in this condition without mother, we endured many hardships. Our nearest neighbor, James Adams was one mile away. Father was a mason tender and would leave home on Monday morning and walk to Provo about five miles and stay until Saturday night . Father would raise his own corn and his own sugar cane and in the fall would get the corn ground into meal mush and would pour the molasses on the mush, as we had no sugar or milk. Many times we would take a can over to Slatterns Molasses mill and get skimming with which we made molasses candy.

In 1887, father married again to Ellen Bean of Salt Lake City, and as this woman was from the city and not accustomed to pioneer life, she stayed with us for only about six months. When Ellen left we were left alone in the same condition as before for about a year. Father, being away from home so much of the time and had no one to take care of his family.

In the fall of 1888, Father married Alice Liddiard of Provo. Our home life seemed fairly good so Mary went to live with our mother's sister aunt Ruth Bailey of Provo because she was now old enough to work in the Provo Woolen Mills. Sam, James and myself remained in the home. On the 19th of September, a half sister Lottie Hadfield was born. It seemed that friction came after the arrival of this little one and about 1889 our home began to break up again. A sad condition

came about. Our newest stepmother became mentally unbalanced and was sent to an asylum. Alice Liddiard died after that not fully gaining her strength from the birth of Lottie.

While Grandma Hadfield was alive, we did very well. She would wash our clothes and see that we were clean. Then one day another sad thing happened to Grandma. Something fell off the table and Grandma bent down to pick it up and struck her head on a corner of the table and it killed her. I missed her more than I did my mother. Grandma had been taking care of baby Walter and after her death Walter was passed to her daughter Sarah.

We three boys back at the home again with no one to guide us, we got into trouble. My mother had a half sister, Agnus Hadnum, who came to live on the bench about ½ mile from our home. So one day when she was away from home we three boys became hungry and went up to Aunt Agnus' place and into the cellar. We found some bottled fruit and took it and ate it. Well Aunt Agnus had us arrested. We were 12, 10 and 8 years of age.

We were taken to Provo court house. Aunt Agnus wanted us put in jail, but the kind old judge with tears in his eyes said, "No". We were kept in the courthouse and not in the jail with Jessie J. Fuller a Court Clerk of Provo in charge of us. In a short while James Able (Jim) went to live with Uncle Joseph Hadfield of Springville, and finally T. R. Jones was in Provo on the jury duty and Judge Dusenberry asked him if he wanted a boy to help him on his farm.

Judge Dusenberry knowing that Thomas R. Jones could not have any children of his own and so at Christmas time 1889, I came to Lehi with Thomas R. Jones on the train. I still had a Christmas book which I brought with me. Thus begins a new life for me.